

Department of Commerce Growth Management Services Planner's Update

A monthly newsletter to share helpful information related to planning in Washington State

OCTOBER 2011 – ISSUE 49

Welcome to the Planner's Update, an electronic newsletter from the Department of Commerce, Growth Management Services. We send this newsletter monthly to share helpful information related to planning in Washington State.

Please feel free to send us any comments or ideas for how to make this newsletter more useful. You can also use the link below to provide additional names of planners who might like to subscribe.

Please also consider sharing this newsletter with planning commissioners.



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www.commerce.wa.gov/growth
www.washington-apa.org
www.smartgrowth.org
www.planningpaw.org
www.mrsc.org

1. Expanding the School Siting Conversation: A Webinar Series

To encourage healthy, sustainable schools and communities, the Council for Educational Facility Planners International (CEFPI), the National Center for Safe Routes to School, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Center to Prevent Childhood Obesity, and the U.S.

Environmental Protection Agency are offering a series of educational webinars and a "live chat" that will provide the opportunity to pose questions of experts. **The first-ever federal school siting guidelines will be featured throughout the series.**

Who Should Join? Local education agencies (LEAs), tribes, legislators, state agencies (health, transportation, education, environment and historic preservation), and others interested in policies and practices that lead to healthier citizens and sustainable communities across the United States.

Save the dates:

October 11 10:00 am pacific [Location, Location, Location: New Guidance for Locating Schools in a Healthy, Sustainable Way](#)

October 18 11:00am pacific [State Strategies for School Siting: Locating Schools for Better Health, Environmental, and Fiscal Outcomes](#)

October 25 11:00am pacific School Siting – Advancing Environmental Justice and Preservation Through School Siting

November 1 11:00am pacific [A Live Chat on School Siting and Community-Centered Schools](#)

All sessions run for 1 hour. <http://www.preservati.org/expanding-the-school-siting-conversation-a-webinar-series>

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2. FY2012 Brownfields Assessment, Revolving Loan Fund and Cleanup Grant Guidelines – Request for Proposals

These brownfields grants may be used to address sites contaminated by petroleum and hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants (including hazardous substances co-mingled with petroleum). Opportunities for funding are as follows: Brownfields Assessment Grants (each funded up to \$200,000 over three years; coalitions are funded up to \$1,000,000 over three years), Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) Grants (each funded up to \$1,000,000 over five years) and Brownfields Cleanup Grants (each funded up to \$200,000 over three years). The proposal deadline is November 28, 2011.

- [Final FY2012 Brownfields Assessment Grant Guidelines \(PDF\)](#) (57 pp, 340K)
- [Final FY2012 Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund Grant Guidelines \(PDF\)](#) (51 pp, 303K)
- [Final FY2012 Brownfields Cleanup Grant Guidelines \(PDF\)](#) (59 pp, 341K)
- [Frequently Asked Questions \(PDF\)](#) (47 pp, 226K)

[Proposal Guidelines from Previous Years](#)

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3. Assessing Places to Protect, Restore, and Develop Puget Sound

Work is nearly finished on an important near-term action in the Puget Sound Action Agenda. Using an Environmental Protection Agency grant, the Department of Ecology and the Department of Fish and Wildlife, with assistance from the Puget Sound Partnership, characterized the Puget Sound watersheds to determine the relative importance of places to protect, restore, and develop.

The "Puget Sound Characterization" is several assessments that cover the entire Puget Sound drainage area - from the Olympic Mountains on the west to the Cascade Mountains on the east, including the San Juan Islands.

The watersheds are rated on water quality, flow, and fish and wildlife habitats. That information can be used in land use planning, prioritizing restoration projects, acquiring important lands, transferring development rights, and setting development regulations and standards.

A draft technical document is available for review at [Puget Sound Characterization Project](#). The document describes methods, models, and analyses for the water flow and water quality assessment of Puget Sound Water Resource Inventory Areas, as well as methods and guidance for applying the model results. A companion document describing the habitat assessment part of the project will be released in late November.

Once the information is finalized, the three state agencies will develop a Web-based display for assessment results that will assist local planners in applying the characterization results, including using the data for developing shoreline programs and comprehensive plans. The agencies also will create a grant program to fund protection and restoration of watershed resources by local governments.

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4. New Low Impact Development Manual Coming Soon

A new draft Low Impact Development Technical Guidance Manual for Puget Sound is scheduled for release soon. The guidance manual contains information about how to properly site, design, install, and maintain low impact development practices in the Puget Sound region.

Low impact development is a strategy to manage storm water that mimics natural water patterns by conserving and using natural features of the land in addition to small-scale storm water controls. The Puget Sound Partnership and the Washington State University Puyallup Research and Extension Center are teaming up again with area experts to develop the manual.

Studies in the United States, Europe, Canada, and Japan indicate that low impact development practices can prevent pollution from getting into the Sound.

Scientists believe development and storm water runoff have contributed to the decline of Puget Sound Chinook and chum salmon and bull trout, all of which now are listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act.

The release of this manual is important as local governments look for new, cost-effective techniques to manage runoff and comply with federal and state storm water permit requirements. Originally developed in 2005, the guidance manual will be the 2nd edition. The final manual is expected to be released in early 2012. For more information please see the [2011 LID Technical Guidance Manual for Puget Sound](#).

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